

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill to designate the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge" in honor of our colleague who passed away this past, Saturday June 22.

BILL was a valuable member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who understood the critical role of infrastructure in our society today. So it is particularly appropriate that this replacement bridge in Cape Girardeau, MO—which BILL worked to secure funding for—is to be named in his memory.

Over the many years we served together on the Transportation Committee, I came to appreciate BILL's dedication to our issues. He was a hard worker and a Member you knew you could count on when the chips were down.

BILL always spoke his mind and was not afraid to take a stand on tough issues that he believed in. He remained true to his convictions and yet knew how to compromise in order to achieve his goals.

BILL first came to Washington at the age of 15 when he was appointed a page in the House. After serving as a congressional staffer and in the private sector, he ran for Congress and won the 1980 election. While in the House, he also served on the Agriculture Committee, which was of great importance to his southeastern Missouri district.

The quick action on the part of both the Senate and the House in passing this legislation is a true indication of the respect and admiration we all feel for BILL.

I want to express my sympathies to BILL's family—his wife, Jo Ann, and his daughters, Elizabeth, Abigail, Victoria, and Katharine.

BILL will be missed here in the House. In recognition of his many years of dedicated service, I urge the House to approve this bill to name the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge."

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McINNIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1903

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF BILL EMERSON BRIDGE.

The bridge, estimated to be completed in the year 2000, that replaces the bridge on highway 74 spanning from East Cape Girardeau, Illinois, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the bridge referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge".

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1903, the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3675, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Ms. GREENE of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-633) on the resolution (H. Res. 460) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3675) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—INSTRUCTING COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT TO IMMEDIATELY TRANSMIT REMAINING CHARGES AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH TO OUTSIDE COUNSEL

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas the Constitution of the United States places upon the House of Representatives the responsibility to regulate the conduct of its own Members;

Whereas the House has delegated that responsibility, in part, to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, which is charged with investigating alleged violations of any law, rule, regulation or other standard of conduct by a Member of the House;

Whereas the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has failed to discharge that duty with regard to serious allegations of wrongdoing by the Speaker of the House;

Whereas, although an outside counsel has been appointed to investigate the Speaker, the Committee has failed to allow that outside counsel to investigate serious charges concerning the Speaker's political action committee, GOPAC, and its relationship to several tax-exempt organizations;

Whereas a formal complaint concerning these charges has been languishing before the Committee for more than six months;

Whereas new evidence of violations of federal tax law—in addition to the information contained in the formal complaint—has also been recently reported by investigative journalists around the country;

Whereas the failure to take action on these matters has raised serious questions about the impartiality of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is hereby instructed to immediately transmit the remaining charges against Speaker Gingrich to the outside counsel for his investigation and recommendations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the

floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days of its being properly noticed. The Chair will announce that designation at a later time. In the meantime, the form of the resolution proffered by the gentleman from Florida will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair is not at this point making a determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated by the Chair for consideration of the resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and that I be permitted to include tables, charts, and other extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 456 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3666.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3666) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. COMBEST in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS].